

IOWA BOARD OF NURSING

In RE: Petition for)	Declaratory Ruling No. 58
Declaratory Ruling)	
Filed by: Robin Beagle, R.N.)	Nonlicensed Personnel Per-
November 12, 1992)	forming Clean Intermittent
)	Catheterization in a Resi-
)	dential Care Facility for
)	the Mentally Retarded

A petition for Declaratory Ruling was filed with the Iowa Board of Nursing by Robin Beagle, R.N., Davenport, Iowa, on November 12, 1992. The Board is authorized to issue declaratory rulings "as to the applicability of any statutory provision, rule, or other written statement of law or policy, decision or order of the agency" pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.9 (1991). See also 655 Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 9.

The question presented in the original petition was:

May the Handicapped Development Center train and provide ongoing supervision to direct care staff at the Handicapped Development Center in a residential care facility for the mentally retarded (RCF/MR) to perform intermittent catheterization to an individual residing in one of our programs?

Our interpretation of the question presented in the petition is:

May an RN employed at Handicapped Development Center, Davenport, Iowa, delegate to nonlicensed personnel employed by the residential care facility, the clean intermittent catheterization and instillation of neomycin sulfate 1% solution for a resident in this residential care facility for the mentally retarded?

Facts leading to this request are as follows:

Handicapped Development Center operates residential care facilities for the mentally retarded. This is a young adult client with meningomyelocele with complete flacid paraplegia,

thoracic 10 right and thoracic 9 left sensory level; neurogenic bowel and bladder; status post urethral reimplant; posterior fossa decompression and laminectomy with fourth ventricle subarachnoid shunt and mild mental retardation. Options for alternative living arrangements are limited. Her family life is in a state of chaos and returning her to the family home would be emotionally destructive. A geriatric nursing facility or an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded appear to be equally inappropriate due to her young age and cognitive status. The ICF/MR facilities typically serve individuals who are low functioning and have multiple disabilities. She will be transferred to one of these facilities if care cannot be provided by unlicensed personnel.

A registered nurse is employed by Handicapped Development Center at the intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded. This nurse will provide training to the residential care facility staff related to the procedure, safety, issues, possible complications, and when to seek medical attention. This nurse will also provide ongoing assessment and supervision. Arrangements have been made for medical care to be available in the community at any time. Primary care has been provided by the University of Iowa Hospital School and staff will be available by telephone for advice.

Rationale:


The Board of Nursing considers the intermittent clean catheterization to be a nursing function. The procedure requires the knowledge and skills attributed to licensed nurses. However, due to the particular fact and circumstances in this case, an RN employed by Handicapped Development Center may delegate the intermittent clean catheterization of a client to nonlicensed personnel provided:

1. The registered nurse provides inservice education for the nonlicensed personnel; the nurse observes the successful demonstration of the task by nonlicensed personnel; documentation thereof is contained in the personnel file of the nonlicensed personnel; and

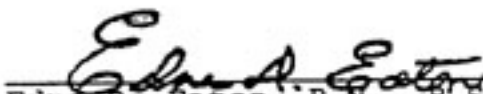
2. The registered nurse reviews the procedure, observes at least one clean intermittent catheterization by the nonlicensed personnel on a quarterly basis to assess skills; and

3. The registered nurse provides for the nonlicensed personnel, annual review of procedure of clean intermittent catheterization and complications; documentation thereof is contained in the personnel file of the nonlicensed personnel.

The registered nurse shall retain accountability for actions that are delegated.


Lorinda K. Inman, R.N., M.S.N.
Executive Director
Iowa Board of Nursing

December 3, 1992
Date


Edna D. Eaton, R.N., B.S.N.
Chairperson
Iowa Board of Nursing

December 3, 1992
Date